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COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH, VITAL STATISTICS, and SANITARY

CONDITIONS of the COUNTY

(Including the Burgh of Dornoch)

For the Year Ended 31st DECEMBER 1951

AND ON

SCHOOL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

For the Year Ended 31st JULY, 1951

By K. A. MACRAE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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Public Health Office,
Bonar-Bridge, 30th June, 1952.

To

The Department of Health for Scotland
and
The Local Authority, County of Sutherland.

ANNUAL REPORT BY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health Services and Vital Statistics of the County of Sutherland for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

On 12th November, 1951, on account of sudden illness, I had to go off duty as Medical Officer of Health for several months, and would like to record my appreciation of the sympathy and consideration shown me in my illness by the County Council as a whole, and by individual members.

The work of the Public Health Department during my absence was carried on by Dr John Broadfoot, D.P.H.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

K. A. MACRAE,
Medical Officer of Health.

LIST OF STAFF**Medical Officer of Health—**

K. A. MACRAE, J.P., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

County Dental Officer—

C. C. FORSYTH, L.R.C.S., L.D.S.

Oculist to Education Authority (Part-Time)—

ELIZABETH LINDSAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Superintending Nursing Officer—

Miss B. T. GILMOUR

District Nursing Sisters—

Name—	District—
Mrs KENNEDY	LOCHINVER
Mrs MACLEOD	STOER
Miss MACKAY	KINLOCHBERVIE
Mrs CAMPBELL	DURNESS
Miss COWIE	TONGUE
Miss POLLOCK	BETTYHILL
Miss ROSS	MELVICH
Miss MACPHERSON	HELMSDALE
Miss GILCHRIST	BRORA
Miss MUNRO	GOLSPIE
Miss MACRAE	ROGART
Mrs BUDGE	LAIRG
Miss GRAHAM	DORNOCH
Miss VASS	BONAR-BRIDGE
Miss MACDONALD	Relief Duty

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**County Sanitary Inspector—**

E. W. BRANNEN, L.R.I.B.A., M.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—

H. STEELE, M.R.S.A.S.

SOCIAL WELFARE**Chief Officer—**

D. J. MACKAY, Bonar-Bridge

District Officers—

H. W. MACKAY, Lochinver	A. C. MACKAY, Strathy
C. B. MACKAY, Scourie	A. MACLEOD, Rogart
O. ARMSTRONG, Helmsdale	

Children's Officer—

ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, Brora

VITAL STATISTICS

COUNTY DISTRICT

(Including Burgh of Dornoch)

TABLE I.
POPULATION

As estimated by General Registrar

1942	..	..	..	..	..	13,800
1943	..	..	..	..	..	13,458
1944	..	..	..	..	..	13,350
1945	..	..	..	..	..	13,352
1946	..	..	..	..	..	14,035
1947	..	..	..	..	..	14,443
1948	..	..	..	..	..	14,393
1949	..	..	..	..	..	14,420
1950	..	..	..	..	..	13,951
1951	..	..	..	..	..	13,686

BIRTHS

During the year the births of 232 children were credited to the County (178 being registered in the district, 4 transferred out, and 58 transferred in).

TABLE II.

The following table shows the Birth Rates for the past 10 years:—

BIRTH RATES

						Rate per 1000.
1942	..	..	..	..	..	16.0
1943	..	..	..	..	..	17.6
1944	..	..	..	..	..	16.2
1945	..	..	..	..	..	12.5
1946	..	..	..	..	..	17.8
1947	..	..	..	..	..	17.7
1948	..	..	..	..	..	14.9
1949	..	..	..	..	..	15.8
1950	..	..	..	..	..	16.8
1951	..	..	..	..	..	17.0

Scotland 1951 17.7

Of the 232 Births, 10 were illegitimate—4.3 per cent. of total.

TABLE III.
MARRIAGES

	Number.	Rate per 1000.
County	55	4.0
Scotland	—	8.1

DEATHS

During 1951, 205 persons died in the County. Seven deaths were transferred to other districts, and 31 deaths which occurred outside the County were transferred in, making a total of 229. The resulting Death Rate was 16.7 per 1000 of the estimated population.

TABLE IV.
DEATH RATES

						Rate per 1000.
1942	..	..	..	..	..	17.6
1943	..	..	..	..	..	19.1
1944	..	..	..	..	..	16.9
1945	..	..	..	..	..	17.5
1946	..	..	..	..	..	15.4
1947	..	..	..	..	..	17.0
1948	..	..	..	..	..	14.3
1949	..	..	..	..	..	16.9
1950	..	..	..	..	..	14.4
1951	..	..	..	..	..	16.7

Scotland 1951 12.9

Owing to the small population of the County the Death Rate as calculated fluctuates greatly from year to year, as is evident from the preceding table.

The Death Rate for the County is considerably greater than that for Scotland, but when adjusted for age and sex distribution it falls to 10.7, which is less than that for Scotland as a whole.

TABLE V.

DEATHS IN EACH AGE GROUP

Age	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 & over
Number ..	9	1	—	—	3	1	5	15	17	51	73	54
Per Cent. .	4.0	0.4	—	—	1.3	0.5	2.0	6.6	7.4	22.3	31.9	23.6

TABLE VI.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Typhoid Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	—
Measles	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	—
Influenza	..	..	..	12
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	—
Other Epidemic Diseases	..	..	..	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	6
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	..	..	..	—
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	..	..	..	26
Diabetes Mellitis	..	..	..	1
Other General Diseases: Chronic Poisonings	..	..	..	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	32
Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs	..	..	..	4
Heart Disease	..	..	..	71
Other Circulatory Disease	..	..	..	12
Bronchitis	..	..	..	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	1
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	..	..	..	1
Diarrhoea, etc., all ages	..	..	..	—
Appendicitis	..	..	..	—
Cirrhosis of Liver, etc.	..	..	..	1
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	..	..	..	2
Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	3
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	..	..	..	4
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	—
Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	—
Diseases of Skin and Locomotor System	..	..	..	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	..	..	..	8
Old Age	..	..	..	16
Suicide	..	..	..	—
Other Violence	..	..	..	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	9

INFANTILE MORTALITY

During 1951 9 children under 1 year of age died in the County—an Infantile Mortality Rate of 39 per 1000 births.

The Infantile Mortality Rates for the past ten years are shown in the following table;—

TABLE VII.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

						Rate per 1000.
1942	..	..	..	..	..	30.0
1943	..	..	..	..	..	55.0
1944	..	..	..	..	..	51.0
1945	..	..	..	..	..	11.0
1946	..	..	..	..	..	20.0
1947	..	..	..	..	..	43.0
1948	..	..	..	..	..	51.0
1949	..	..	..	..	..	4.0
1950	..	..	..	..	..	55.0
1951	..	..	..	..	..	39.0
<hr/>						
Scotland 1951	..	..	..	..	..	37.0

In Sutherland the Infantile Mortality Rate has usually been low, and in 1949 it was the lowest ever recorded for the County. This year, however, due chiefly to the occurrence of births of several premature and deformed babies the rate is somewhat above the average of the last ten years, although only slightly above that for Scotland as a whole.

Infantile death was due to the following causes:—

Premature Birth and Congenital Debility	..	..	2
Congenital Deformity	..	..	5
Whooping Cough	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Three Males and three Females died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, giving a Phthisis Death Rate of 0.44 per 1000.

The Death Rate for this Disease for the last ten years is shown in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII.
PHTHISIS DEATH RATE

						Rate per 1000.
1942	..	..	..	..	..	0.65
1943	..	..	..	..	..	0.74
1944	..	..	..	..	..	0.22
1945	..	..	..	..	..	0.30
1946	..	..	..	..	..	0.70
1947	..	..	..	..	..	0.55
1948	..	..	..	..	..	0.14
1949	..	..	..	..	..	0.49
1950	..	..	..	..	..	0.14
1951	..	..	..	..	..	0.44
<hr/>						
Scotland 1951	..	..	..	..	..	0.37

The Phthisis Death Rate for 1951 is somewhat higher than last year, but, as will be noted from the above table, there is considerable fluctuation in this Death Rate on account of the small population from which the calculation is made. However, as will be seen in the section of the report dealing with tuberculosis, the average for the decade at 0.44 is less than half of what the average was in the decade ending 1931.

TABLE IX.
NON-PULMONARY T.B. DEATH RATE

						Rate per 1000.
1942	..	..	..	..	..	0.07
1943	..	..	..	..	..	0.08
1944	..	..	..	..	..	0.08
1945	..	..	..	..	..	0.07
1946	..	..	..	..	..	0.29
1947	..	..	..	..	..	0.07
1948	..	..	..	..	..	0.07
1949	..	..	..	..	..	0.06
1950	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
1951	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
<hr/>						
Scotland 1951	..	..	..	..	..	0.06

DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC DISEASES

Fourteen deaths from Epidemic Diseases occurred in the County during the year, giving a rate per thousand of population of 1.02.

The deaths in this group were due to the following causes:—Influenza, 12; Measles, 1; Whooping Cough, 1.

Of the Influenzal deaths eight were over 75 years of age, six of these being over 85 years.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1947 LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

1—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The main work done under this section was carried out by the Superintending Nursing Officer and District Nursing Sisters, and the table overleaf shows in detail the visits paid.

Home Visitation of Mothers and Young Children

	Number of Infants under 1 year visited	Number of visits paid to Infants under 1 year	Number of Infants 1 to 5 years visited	Number of visits paid to Infants 1 to 5 years	Number of Expectant Mothers visited	Number of visits to Expec- tant Mothers
Lochinver ..	8	102	8	233	8	50
Stoer ..	—	—	1	97	2	38
Eddrachilles ..	26	270	16	545	27	119
Lairg ..	15	79	14	188	22	100
Melvich ..	12	145	12	216	11	102
Golspie ..	16	303	39	345	18	108
Bettyhill ..	8	102	8	207	8	75
Helmsdale ..	18	248	20	335	18	103
Brora ..	32	316	22	381	36	218
Rogart ..	7	92	13	140	12	100
Tongue ..	16	198	13	203	19	77
Dornoch and Embo	41	393	34	348	41	345
Creich ..	17	224	20	221	23	178
Durness ..	8	97	6	105	11	71
Headquarters ..	—	80	—	105	—	51
Total ..	224	2649	226	3669	256	1705

Additional welfare foods for expectant and nursing mothers and children in needful circumstances, along with clothing in some cases, was provided through the British Red Cross Society.

Every endeavour has been made to place a priority dental service at the disposal of mothers and young children, but the response has not been satisfactory. District Nursing Sisters have been instructed, however, to encourage all persons booking them for confinement to seek the advice of the Council's Dental Officer, and the same applies so far as children under five on the health visiting lists are concerned. There has been full co-operation between the Council's Dental Officer and visiting Dentists undertaking service under the National Health Service Act.

2—MIDWIFERY

The staffing of the various districts throughout the County has been well maintained during the year chiefly due to the energetic efforts of our Superintending Nursing Officer, Miss Gilmour.

The training of midwives in gas and air analgesia has proceeded throughout the year whenever vacancies for training could be secured and it was found practicable to release a midwife to attend the course. At the end of 1951 there were 14 midwives on the staff of the Local Health Authority trained, leaving only 2 to receive training.

Maternity outfits were issued through the Public Health Office and the Superintending Nursing Officer to Doctors and midwives on request. No applications were received for the provision of beds or bedding.

3—HEALTH VISITING

Health visiting by the Superintending Nursing Officer and District Nursing Sisters has continued throughout the year as described in my Report of 1948. Details of the work done are shown under individual sections of this Report.

4—HOME NURSING

The work under this section has continued as previously, being closely co-ordinated with the other health service arrangements of the Local Health Authority.

Home Nursing from 1/1/51 to 31/12/51.

Distriet.						General Cases.	General Nursing Visits.
Bettyhill	..	..	..	..	..	107	1310
Clyne	..	..	..	..	..	142	2137
Creich	..	..	..	..	..	69	1030
Dornoch	..	..	..	..	..	129	2739
Durness	..	..	..	..	..	33	862
Eddrachilles	..	..	..	..	..	83	1665
Golspie	..	..	..	..	..	108	2542
Kildonan and Loth	..	..	..	..	..	75	2662
Lairg	..	..	..	..	..	114	1495
Lochinver	..	..	..	..	..	202	2617
Melvich	..	..	..	..	..	87	2152
Rogart	..	..	..	..	..	107	2668
Tongue	..	..	..	..	..	59	956
Stoer	..	..	..	..	..	91	2763
Headquarters	..	..	..	..	..	—	42
						1406	27640

5—DOMESTIC HELP

See Table V. of General Statistics relating to Local Health Authority Services.

6—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The facilities for vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria have continued to be provided by general practitioners throughout the County. Table overleaf.

Diphtheria Immunisation—1/1/51-31/12/51.

					New Cases.	Maintenance Innoculations.
Pre-School Children	..	..	..	..	202	13
School Children	..	..	..	..	57	471
Total	..	..	..	..	259	484

Special attention is now being given to the provision of "boosting" doses of diphtheria prophylactic particularly to children entering school for the first time, and all parents are circularised recommending this procedure when their children are receiving final visits under the health visiting scheme. It is intended to extend this recommendation of "boosting" doses to all school children who have not already been treated on entering school.

Parents, on the recommendation of their Doctor, have the opportunity of receiving whooping cough immunisation combined with diphtheria immunisation for their children who have not had whooping cough in earlier childhood.

7—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTERCARE

Tuberculosis

The Council's arrangements continue as described in my Report of 1948.

Medical supervision is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, who is also District Tuberculosis Officer of the Regional Hospital Board, by patients' Family Doctors, and by District Nursing Sisters.

The table on Page 11 shows the work done by District Nursing Sisters acting as Health Visitors during the year.

VACCINATION, 1951

Year of birth of persons.	Number of persons primarily vaccinated during period				Number of persons re-vaccinated during period			Number of persons specially reported during period because of actual or alleged complication of vaccination.
	Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day.	Accelerated (vaccinoid) Reaction 5th-7th day.	Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day.	No local reaction.	Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day.	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day.	Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day.	
1951	82				2			
1950	54							
1949	6					1		3
1948	8							
1947	5							
1946	--							
1945	1							
1944	3							
1943	1							
1942	1							
1941	1	1						
1940	8							
1939	3							
1938	2							
1937	6							
1936								
or earlier	4			2	6	4	5	10
TOTALS	162	1		2	8	5	6	13

Tuberculosis Visiting and Nursing for Year 1951.

District.	No. of Cases.	Advisory Visits.	Nursing Visits.	Total.
Lochinver	5	60	18	78
Eddrachilles	10	120	—	120
Stoer	5	43	3	46
Lairg	8	66	—	66
Melvich	8	91	8	99
Golspie	—	79	—	79
Bettyhill	6	56	3	59
Helmsdale	8	100	11	111
Brora	12	152	—	152
Rogart	4	49	—	49
Skerray and Tongue	16	157	—	157
Dornoch and Embo ..	10	117	—	117
Creich	3	24	—	24
Durness	3	39	30	69
Headquarters	—	298	—	298
Total	105	1451	73	1524

No applications were received during the year for the provision of beds and bedding, but articles of clothing for needy patients have been supplied through the British Red Cross Medical Loan Depot, as have also certain nursing requisites. Extra nourishment in the form of milk and Cod Liver Oil preparations have been issued to patients on home treatment.

Housing and proper isolation of open cases of tuberculosis under treatment at home often presents great difficulties, and as mentioned in previous reports the use of garden shelters in many parts of the County is quite impracticable on account of the exposed nature of the sites and the lack of domestic assistance. The fact, however, that children living in an infected household can be boarded out has been taken advantage of in four instances. Three children went to the Seaforth Home, Maryburgh, and another to relatives in the South.

8—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The following is a list of the Authorised Officers appointed under the Local Authority's arrangements for the care of mental defectives and persons of unsound mind.

District—	Authorised Officer—
Assynt	H. W. Mackay, Lochinver.
Eddrachilles and Durness ..	G. B. Mackay, Scourie.
Tongue and Farr	A. C. Mackay, Strathy.
Kildonan, Loth, and Clyne ..	Ormston Armstrong, Helmsdale.
Golspie, Rogart, and Lairg ..	A. Macleod, Rogart.
Dornoch and Creich	D. J. Mackay, Bonar-Bridge.

There is no change in the arrangements since my Report of 1948, and lunacy cases requiring hospital care have ready access to Craig Dunain Mental Hospital, Inverness. There is, however, a great and pressing need for institutional accommodation for mental defectives in the whole of the northern region and this problem in my opinion can only be overcome by the joint efforts of the Northern Counties. There are at present young persons on the waiting list of special institutions in the South for upwards of seven years without there appearing to be any hope of securing their early admission. Many of these have simply had to wait at home doing nothing, as they have shown themselves unsuitable for attendance at an ordinary public school.

GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

I. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22)

(1) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Service

	No. of clinics provided at end of year whether held at Child Welfare Clinics or other premises.
Local Health Authority Clinics:	
Ante-natal Clinics	NIL
Post-natal Clinics	NIL
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations:	
Ante-natal Clinics	NIL
Post-natal Clinics	NIL

(2) Child Welfare Clinics

	No. of clinics provided at end of year.
Local Health Authority Clinics	NIL
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations ...	NIL

(3) Dental Care

	No. Inspected by Dental Officers during the year.	No. found to require treatment during the year.	No. accepting treatment during the year.	No. actually treated by Dental Officers during the year.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Expectant Mothers	3	3	3	3
Nursing Mothers ....	....	....	....	....
Pre-School Children	9	9	9	9

(4) Mother and Baby Homes—None provided

(5) Day Nurseries (including 24-hour Nurseries) as at end of year—None provided

(6) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes provided as part of the Authority's arrangements under Section 22 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947—None provided

II. MIDWIFERY (Section 23)

- (1) Total number of Births occurring in the area during year—that is before correction for mother's residence :
Live Births, 174; Still Births, 2; Total 176
- (2) Total number of births in (1) occurring in institutions (including private maternity homes) 77
- (3) Total number of births in (1) occurring at home .. 99
- (4) Number of births in (3) classified to show nature of attendance at birth:—

(1)	Cases dealt with under Section 23(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1947.			Other domiciliary cases.			Total.
	Doctor engaged and present at confinement.	Doctor engaged and not present at confinement.	Midwife alone—no doctor engaged.	Doctor engaged	Midwife alone—no doctor engaged.	Without doctor or midwife.	
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority (including those engaged on a fee-per-case basis)	54	45	....	....	....	....	99
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Boards of Management ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(d) Private practising midwives ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(e) Totals	54	45	....	....	....	....	99

(5) Medical Aid under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915

Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915, by a Midwife:—

(a) For Domiciliary Cases:—

- (1) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide maternity medical services under the National Health Service NIL
- (2) Others NIL
- (b) For Cases in Institutions NIL

(6) Administration of Analgesics

(a) Number of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer Analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland:—

- (1) Domiciliary 14
- (2) In Institutions NIL

IV. HOME NURSING (Section 25)

(1)	No. of Cases attended by Home Nurses under arrangements made under this Section. (2)	No. of Visits paid by Nurses to these Cases. (3)
Home Nurses employed directly by the Authority	1,406	27,640
Home Nurses employed by Voluntary Organisations	NIL	NIL

V. DOMESTIC HELP (Section 28)

(1) Number of Domestic Helps employed during the year :

(a) Whole-time —

(b) Part-time (have enrolled for service and are employed when required) 10

(c) Retaining fee basis —

(2) Number of cases for which Helps were provided during year 52

(3) Average period of assistance—Days 56

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1951 :—

Chicken Pox	.. .. .	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.. .. .	—
Continued Fever	.. .. .	1
Diphtheria	.. .. .	1
Dysentery	.. .. .	18
Encephalitis Lethargica	.. .. .	—
Enteric Fever	.. .. .	—
Erysipelas	.. .. .	1
Infective Jaundice	.. .. .	—
Malaria	.. .. .	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.. .. .	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	.. .. .	4
Acute Primary Pneumonia	.. .. .	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	.. .. .	3
Puerperal Fever	.. .. .	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	.. .. .	1
Scarlet Fever	.. .. .	8
Whooping Cough	.. .. .	34
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.. .. .	8
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.. .. .	5

Of the total number of cases notified 25 were treated in hospital, arrangements being made for the isolation and treatment of the other 60 cases at home.

Apart from whooping cough cases which numbered 34 outbreaks of note so far as notifiable infectious disease is concerned was an outbreak of dysentery in Durness in February and March, and the occurrence of 3 cases of Poliomyelitis in other districts.

Diphtheria

One case of Diphtheria, the first to be notified in the County since 1947, occurred in an adult at Brora in May. He was at once removed to hospital and full investigation made, but the source of the infection could not be detected. The case was of moderate severity and made a good recovery. Immunisation against Diphtheria has continued as in previous years and the work done is described under an earlier section of the report.

Scarlet Fever

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. one from Golspie and one from Lairg in January, one from the Sutherland Technical School in February, two from Rogart and two from Helmsdale in June, and another from Rogart in December. The cases on the whole were of a mild type, but because of their home circumstances seven were removed to hospital.

Dysentery

Quite an extensive outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in Durness in February, when 15 cases followed quickly one after the other. The actual source of the outbreak was not traced but one of the initial cases was found to have had an association with several of the others and, as might be expected, there were certain households affected where multiple cases occurred as the result of infection being spread within the household.

The only other district in which cases of dysentery occurred shortly after the Durness outbreak was at Lairg where two cases occurred in one family.

Poliomyelitis

Three cases were reported spread out at quite wide intervals during the year. The first was a school girl at Golspie in January, the second an adult at Dornoch in April, and the third a schoolboy at Earl's Cross Hostel, Dornoch, in November. The illness in all three cases was of a moderate severity, showing signs of paralysis which, however, was of a temporary nature and cleared up gradually after the acute symptoms passed off.

Acute Influenzal Pneumonia and Acute Primary Pneumonia

Five of the former and one of the latter were reported, and three required removal to hospital for treatment.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia

No case of the former but one of the latter was notified which turned out to be an intercurrent infection having no direct connection with the patient's confinement.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases were reported.

Whooping Cough

Thirty-four cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year, all but five of which occurred in the Parish of Dornoch. The five exceptions occurred—three at Altnaharra and two at Spinningdale.

Continued Fever

The one case notified under this category was later diagnosed to be Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease

Cases of Measles were prevalent during the early part of the year in Dornoch, and in Lochinver and Stoer Districts where school closure had to be advised in order to try and prevent the spread of the illness.

TUBERCULOSIS

Eight notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and five of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received during the year and the following table shows the distribution of the cases in the different districts of the County:—

Parish.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Assynt	1	—
Clyne	1	—
Creich	1	—
Dornoch	—	—
Durness	—	—
Eddrachilles	—	2
Farr	—	1
Golspie	—	—
Kildonan	2	—
Lairg	2	2
Loth	—	—
Rogart	—	—
Tongue	2	—
Total	8	5

Of the cases notified the following received Institutional treatment:—

Pulmonary	8
Non-Pulmonary	1

Six deaths occurred during the year 1951 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In the County at 31st December, 1951, there were known to the Public Health Authority 116 cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) and the following table shows the type, age, and sex distribution of the cases:—

Pulmonary—

Age in Years.	-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65	Total.
Males ..	—	—	—	8	11	7	8	1	35
Females ..	—	—	—	9	8	6	8	—	31
Total ..	—	—	—	17	19	13	16	1	66

Non-Pulmonary—

Males ..	—	3	8	4	4	2	1	—	22
Females ..	2	3	5	7	3	2	6	—	28
Total ..	—	6	13	11	7	4	7	—	50
Combined Total..	2	6	13	28	26	17	23	1	116

TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR YEARS 1931-1951 NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATH RATES

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	28	24	21	18	15	13	14	13	11	14	22
Death Rate ..	0.88	1.01	0.57	0.56	1.14	0.63	0.58	0.33	0.46	0.77	0.78
Non-Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	19	14	17	22	8	8	24	18	12	12	15
Death Rate ..	0.31	0.13	0.32	0.25	0.13	0.38	0.19	0.14	0.00	0.07	0.41
	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	25	27	21	12	15	16	17	10	8	8	
Death Rate ..	0.65	0.74	0.22	0.30	0.70	0.55	0.14	0.49	0.14	0.44	
Non-Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	16	22	9	5	9	10	12	10	8	5	
Death Rate ..	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.29	0.07	0.06	0.00	0.00	

Treatment

The following table shows the number of cases who received treatment in Sanatoria and Hospitals during the year:—

	In Hospital 1-1-51.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hospital 31-12-51.
Pulmonary:—					
Males ..	7	11	10	3	5
Females ..	10	11	10	2	9
Non-Pulmonary:—					
Males ..	—	3	3	—	—
Females ..	1	6	7	—	—
Total ..	18	31	30	5	14

Surgical Treatment—

During the year, Tuberculosis patients continued to benefit by the facilities provided by the Surgical Consultant Service.

Death Rate from Phthisis over three Decades

The number of deaths registered as due to Phthisis during the year 1951 was six, a death rate of 0.44 per 1000. The death rate from this disease over the past three decades is shown in the following table:—

1922	1.75	1932	1.01	1942	0.65
1923	1.04	1933	0.57	1943	0.74
1924	1.4	1934	0.56	1944	0.22
1925	1.52	1935	1.14	1945	0.30
1926	0.64	1936	0.63	1946	0.70
1927	1.39	1937	0.58	1947	0.55
1928	0.74	1938	0.33	1948	0.14
1929	0.81	1939	0.46	1949	0.49
1930	1.39	1940	0.77	1950	0.14
1931	0.88	1941	0.78	1951	0.44
Average for		Average for		Average for	
Decade ..	1.16	Decade ..	0.68	Decade ..	0.44

The Phthisis death rate for 1951 is rather more than the death rate from Phthisis in Scotland as a whole. The average for the decade ended 1951, however, is considerably less than the average for the decade ended 1941, and less than one half of the average death rate in the decade ended 1931.

SCHOOL HEALTH

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population of the area 13,674

Number of Schools:—

(a) Primary (under Education Authority)	24
(b) Secondary (under Education Authority) ..	2 (Sen.) 10 (Jun.)
(c) (1) Special Schools	—
(2) Special Classes in ordinary Schools	—
(d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under medical inspection	—

Number of children on the Registers (i.e. for whole area—not individual schools) 2,057

Number of children in average attendance (i.e. for whole area—not individual schools) 1,974

TABLE I.

Total number of children examined at—
Ordinary Schools.

	(a) Systematic Examinations (Age Groups)	(b) Other Systematic Examinations at Schools with roll under 30 where all children are fully examined.
Entrants	214	
Second Age Group ..	216	
Third Age Group ..	165	
Fourth Age Group ..	27	
Total	<u>622</u>	310

(c) Other Examinations—

Special Cases	69
Vision & Hearing (Born 1943)	168
Re-inspection by Medical Officer	171
Total	<u>408</u>

Number of individual children inspected at Systematic Examinations, who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding uncleanness and dental caries):—

Entrants	50
Second Age Group ..	34
Third Age Group ..	14
Fourth Age Group ..	1
Other Systematic Examinations	<u>41</u>
Total	140
Notices to Special Cases	<u>33</u>

In addition to the above, children requiring special treatment were notified to the School Oculist and were as follows:—

Entrants	4
Second Age Group ..	20
Third Age Group ..	10
Fourth Age Group ..	1
Other Systematic Examinations	—
"Specials," Etc. ..	<u>52</u>
Total	87

Average Heights and Weights of Children in Systematic Age Groups Weighed and Measured during Year 1950-51

Boys.				Girls.			
No.	Average Age	Height in Ins.	Weight in Lbs.	No.	Average Age	Height in Ins.	Weight in Lbs.
Exd.				Exd.			
86	5 $\frac{7}{12}$	43.80	44.00	84	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	42.84	42.20
84	9 $\frac{7}{12}$	50.85	65.42	92	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	51.15	62.22
74	13 $\frac{7}{12}$	58.35	89.64	58	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	59.15	92.64

NOTE.—The "numbers examined" in above table do not correspond with the figures given in the main statistical tables of the Annual Report on School Medical Inspection as it was not feasible to have all children in the age groups weighed and measured.

TABLE II.

	Systematic Examination of Age Groups,														Other Systematic Examinations.	
	Number Examined - 623.														No. Examined, 310.	
	Number Found with Defects.														Number found with Defects.	
	Total in Age Group.														All Other Ages.	
Entrants.	2nd Age Group.		3rd Age Group.		4th Age Group.		Total in Age Group.		2nd Age Group.		3rd Age Group.		4th Age Group.		Total in Age Group.	
	113	103	116	98	85	81	13	328	295	190	120	190	120	190	120	120
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %
1. Clothing Unsatisfactory	1 .88							1 .30						2 1.05	1 .83	
2. Footgear Unsatisfactory	1 .88													2 1.05		
3. Uncleanliness—																
(a) Head		1 .97														
(b) Body																
4. Skin—																
(a) Head—																
Kingworm	1 .88															
Impetigo	1 .88															
Other Diseases ..																
(b) Body—																
Kingworm	1 .88															
Impetigo																
Scabies																
Other Diseases ..	5 1.3	2 1.7	1 .86	1 1.02	1 1.1	2 2.4		1 .30						1 .32		
5. Nutritional State—																
Slightly Defective ..	1 .88	1 .97	1 .86	1 1.0				2 .60						2 1.0	1 .83	
Bad								7 2.1								
6. Mouth and Teeth Un-																
healthy	5 1.3	3 2.9	1 .86	1 1.0		1 1.2		6 1.8						1 .52	1 .83	
7. Naso-Pharynx—																
(a) Nose—																
Obstruction requir-																
ing Observation ..	2 1.7	1 .97	1 .86	2 2.0	1 1.1	1 1.2		1 1.2						1 .52		
Obstruction requir-																
ing Operative Treat-	7 6.1	4 3.8	2 1.7	2 2.0		1 1.2		9 2.7						2 1.0	1 .83	
Other conditions ..	3 2.6		1 .86	1 1.0		1 1.2		4 1.2						2 1.0		

TABLE II. (Cont.)

7. Naso-Pharynx—Contd.— (b) Throat— Tonsils requiring Observation .. Tonsils requiring Operative Treat. (c) Glands— Requiring Observa- tion .. Requiring Operative Treatment ..	5 16 2 1	4.3 14.0 1.7 .88	10 12 6	9.7 11.6 5.8	1 5 4	.86 4.3 3.4	5 4 3 1	5.1 4.0 3.0 1.0	3 3 1	3.5 3.5 1.1	5 4 1	6.1 1.9 1.2	1 7.1	10 24 7 1	3.0 7.3 2.1 .30	20 20 10 1	6.8 6.8 3.4 .33	5 12 3	2.6 6.3 1.5	4 9 7.5
8. Eyes— (a) External Disease— Blepharitis .. Conjunctivitis .. Corneal Opacities .. Strabismus .. Other Diseases .. (b) Visual Acuity— Fair .. Bad .. Recommended for Refraction ..	3 4 1 2	2.6 3.5 .88 1.7	2 1 2 2	1.9 .97 1.9 1.9	1 2 4 11	.86 1.7 3.4 9.4	15 6 9 9	15.3 6.1 9.1	4 4 3	4.7 4.7 3.5	9 1 7	11.1 1.2 8.6	1 7.1	22 10 16	6.7 3.0 4.8	27 9 19	9.1 3.0 6.4	13 3 11	6.8 1.5 5.7	17 7 15
9. Ears— (a) Diseases Otorrhoea .. Other Diseases .. (b) Defective Hearing— Grade I .. Grade II. (a) .. Grade II. (b) .. Grade III. ..	2 2 2	1.9 1.9 1.9	2 2 2	1.9 1.9 1.9	11 4 11	9.4 3.4 9.4	9 6 9	9.1 6.1 9.1	3 4 3	3.5 4.7 4.7	7 1 9	8.6 1.2 11.1	1 7.1	22 10 16	6.7 3.0 4.8	27 9 19	9.1 3.0 6.4	13 3 11	6.8 1.5 5.7	17 7 15
10. Speech— Defective Articulation Stammering ..	1	.88			1 2	.86 1.7							1 7.1	2 3	.60 .90			2 1	1.0 .83	1 83
11. Mental and Nervous Condition— (a) Backward (due to extrinsic cause) .. (b) Dull Intrinsically .. (c) Mentally Defective (educable) .. (d) Mentally Defective (ineducable) .. (e) Highly Nervous or Unstable .. (f) Difficult in Behaviour	1 1 1 1 1	.88 .88 .88 .88 .88			2 2 2 2 2	1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7	1 1 1 1 1	1.1 1.1 1.1 1.1 1.1	1 1 1 1 1	1.2 1.2 1.2 1.2 1.2	1 1 1 1 1	1.2 1.2 1.2 1.2 1.2	1 7.1	4 1 1 1 1	1.2 .30 .30 .30 .30	1 1 1 1 1	.33 .33 .33 .33 .33	3 3 3 3 3	1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57	1 83 83 83 83

TABLE II. (Cont.)

	Systematic Examination of Age Groups.															Other Systematic Examinations.	
	Number Examined—623.															No. Examined, 310.	
	Number Found with Defects.															Number found with Defects.	
	Total in Age Groups.															All Other Ages.	
	Entrants.			2nd Age Group.			3rd Age Group.			4th Age Group.			Boys.			Boys.	
	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%
	113	103	Girls.	116	98	Girls.	85	81	Girls.	14	13	Girls.	328	295	Girls.	190	120
	Boys.	No.	%	Boys.	No.	%	Boys.	No.	%	Boys.	No.	%	Boys.	No.	%	Boys.	Girls.
	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%
12. Circulation System— (a) Organic Heart Disease —Congenital Acquired (b) Functional Conditions	1	.88	1	.97	2	1.7		1	1.2				2	.66	2	1.0	
													1	.30	1	1.5	1
																	.83
13. Lungs— Chronic Bronchitis .. Suspected Tuberculosis .. Other Diseases	3	2.6	5	4.8	3	2.5							6	1.8	5	3.6	
																	1.6
																	.83
																	.83
14. Deformities— (a) Congenital (b) Acquired Infantile Paralysis (c) Acquired Probably .. Rickets (d) Acquired other causes	1	.88	1	.97	1	1.0	2	2.3	1	1.2			1	.30	2		
													2	.60	1		1
																	.83
																	.83
15. Infectious Disease ..	1	.88	1	.97									1	.30	1		
																	.52
																	.83
16. Other Diseases or Defects	2	1.7	2	1.9	3	2.5	2	2.0	1	1.2	1	7.7	5	1.5	6	3	1.5

TABLE II. (a)

	CONDITION	Examination—Vision and Hearing (Children Born 1943)		Examination of Special Cases		
		Number Examined—168		Number Examined—69		
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
		No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
No Defect Found	...	81	61	12	8	20
Uncleanliness	...	—	—	—	1	1
Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy	...	—	—	2	—	2
Impetigo	...	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies	...	—	—	1	—	1
Slightly Defective Nutrition	...	—	—	—	1	1
Adenoids	...	—	—	3	—	3
Enlarged Tonsils (Observation)	...	—	—	3	2	5
Enlarged Tonsils (Operation)	...	—	—	9	8	17
Glands (requiring observation)	...	—	—	3	1	4
Glands (requiring treatment)	...	—	—	1	—	1
Eyes	...	1	—	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities	...	—	—	—	—	—
Strabismus	...	—	—	—	—	—
Blepharitis	...	—	1	—	—	—
Detective Vision—Fair	...	6	9	1	1	2
Bad	...	3	7	—	2	2
Recommended for Refraction	...	9	13	1	2	3
Defective Hearing	...	—	—	—	1	1
Otorrhoea	...	—	—	—	—	—
Defective Speech	...	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiac Defect	...	—	—	—	—	—
Mentally Defective	...	—	—	—	—	—
Lungs (other diseases)	...	—	—	3	1	4
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities	...	—	—	1	1	2
Infectious Diseases	...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases or Defects	...	—	—	2	1	3

TABLE III.

Group Classification	Systematic Examination of Age Groups										Other Systematic Exams. at schools where all children are examined	
	Entrants		2nd Age Group		3rd Age Group		4th Age Group		Total in Age Groups			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
I. No Defect	124	57.4	133	62.2	124	75.1	20	74.1	401	64.5	212	68.4
II. (a) 6/12+ (Better Eye) with or without glasses	3	1.4	28	13.1	13	7.9	2	7.4	46	7.4	27	8.7
(b) Mouth or teeth likely to cause ill-health....	4	1.9	1	0.5	—	—	—	—	5	0.8	2	0.6
(c) Both (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.3
Total	7	3.3	29	13.6	13	7.9	2	7.4	51	8.2	30	9.6
III. Temporary Illness only	30	13.8	20	9.3	11	6.7	2	7.4	63	10.1	26	8.4
IV. (a) Cure expected by treatment	50	23.2	21	9.8	12	7.3	—	—	83	13.3	29	9.4
(b) Improvement only by treatment	5	2.3	11	5.1	5	3.0	3	11.1	24	3.9	13	4.2
Total	55	25.5	32	14.9	17	10.3	3	11.1	107	17.2	42	13.6
Total number of children examined	216	100	214	100	165	100	27	100	629	100	310	100

TABLE IV.
Return of Exceptional Children of School Age in the Area

	At Ordinary Schools.	At Special Schools or Classes.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
1. Blind	—	—	—	—
2. Partially Sighted—				
(a) Refractive errors in which the curriculum of an ordinary school would adversely affect the eye condition	—	—	—	—
(b) Other conditions of the eye, e.g., cataract, ulceration, etc., which render the child unable to read ordinary school books or to see well enough to be taught in ordinary school	—	—	—	—
3. Deaf—				
Grade I.	5	—	—	5
Grade IIa.	—	—	—	—
Grade IIb.	—	—	—	—
Grade III.	—	3	—	3
4. Defective Speech—				
(a) Defects of articulation requiring special educational measures	7	—	1	8
(b) Stammering, requiring special educational measures	4	—	1	5
5. Mentally Defective—				
(Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Educable (I.Q. approx. 50-70)	14	2	3	19
(b) Ineducable (I.Q. generally less than 50)	2	6	3	11
6. Epilepsy—				
(a) Mild and occasional	1	—	—	1
(b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school)	—	—	—	—
7. Physically Defective—				
(Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis (excluding cervical glands)	4	—	—	4
(b) General Orthopaedic condition	15	1	1	17
(c) Organic Heart Disease	4	1	1	6
(d) Other causes of disablement	5	1	—	6
8. Multiple Defects—				
(a) 3 and 7(c)	—	1	—	1
(b) 4(a) and 5(a)	1	—	1	2
(c) 4(a) and 5(b)	2	1	—	3
(d) 5(a) and 7(b)	—	1	1	2
(e) 5(a) and 7(c)	—	—	1	1
(f) 5(a) and 7(d)	—	1	—	1

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

a. Minor Ailments

These are attended to by the District Nurses under the supervision of the child's Family Doctor.

The following table shows the work done by the District Nurses in the various districts during the year. Columns 1 and 2 show routine visits paid by Nurses to the schools for the purpose of School Medical Inspection. Column 3 shows visits paid to the homes of children for purpose of follow-up and treatment.

	Number of visits paid to Schools with S.M.O. or Dentist	Number of visits paid to Schools by Nurses themselves	Number of visits paid to homes of School Children
Bettyhill	10	42	16
Clyne	13	29	113
Creich	17	50	40
Dornoch & Embo	34	27	55
Durness	5	20	28
Eddrachilles	18	51	27
Golspie	55	28	126
Kildonan & Loth	11	44	49
Lairg	8	11	36
Lochinver	10	24	33
Melvich	7	44	70
Rogart	20	33	32
Stoer	5	19	40
Tongue	5	35	22
Headquarters	6	40	36
	224	497	723

b. Nose and Throat (Operative Treatment)

(a) Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids—	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Treated under the Education Committee's Scheme at the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie	25	20	45
Treated otherwise (so far as known),	2	2	4
(b) Complicated Cases for whom consultation or in-patient treatment was arranged with the E.N.T. Surgeon, Inverness—			
Consultations	2	1	3
Admissions to Hospital	2	—	2
Re-admissions to Hospital	—	—	—

c. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

Cases are seen by the Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie, during routine visits, or as required at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, or, in special circumstances, at their homes.

The following school children received consultation or treatment during the year:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Admitted Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie..	3	2	5
Admitted Raigmore Hospital Inverness	1	2	3
Admitted Other Orthopaedic Hospitals	1	1	2
Consultations at Lawson Memorial Hospital and treated as Out-patients	4	—	4

d. Defective Vision and Squint Ophthalmologist's Report

During the Year 1950-51 105 children were examined. Glasses were prescribed in 74 of these cases. The following table gives the analysis of the diseases of the eye and errors of refraction treated:—

Diseases of the Eye.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blepharitis	1	4	5
Internal Strabismus	7	4	11
External Strabismus	1	2	3
Errors of Refraction.			
Hypermetropia	3	5	8
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	7	7	14
Compound Hypermetropic Astigmatism	—	4	4
Myopia	16	15	31
Myopic Astigmatism	9	16	25
Compound Myopic Astigmatism	3	3	9
Mixed Astigmatism	1	2	3
Glasses Prescribed	29	45	74
Insignificant Refractive Error or No Refractive Error	13	18	31

e. Special Schools and Classes

The pressing need of facilities for the education of mentally handicapped children has again been of great concern to the Education Committee and on the suggestion of our Director of Education the Committee decided to try and negotiate the appointment of a specialist teacher who would operate within our own County from a centre at Brora. This came to fruition in the Summer of 1951 when Miss Kerr was appointed specialist teacher for mentally handicapped children, and she took up duty on 28th August.

This appointment will certainly help tremendously with the education and training of those mentally handicapped children who can be properly cared for at home and who are in most ways fit to associate with other children, but there is still dire need of institutional facilities in the North of Scotland for mental defectives who, as well as requiring special education, need care and attention which cannot be given them in their homes. In my opinion, therefore, the Education Committee should still press for a joint effort by all interested authorities in the Northern Counties to establish a special institution for these children within our own area.

During the year under review we were not able to gain admission to a special school in Scotland for any of the mentally defective children on the various waiting lists. There is, however, hope of a small number being admitted to the Rudolph Steiner School, Aberdeen, in the near future.

One cripple child is at Trefoil School and three deaf and dumb children are at present being educated at the Donaldson Hospital for the Deaf, Edinburgh. Two mentally defective children are in institutions.

f. Feeding of School Children

The great majority of schools have now been provided with school canteens or are served from neighbouring schools but it is disappointing to find that at Durness particularly there is as yet no school meals service in operation.

Elphin, Inchnadamph, and Scourie have this year been added to the list of schools having canteen service. The standard and efficiency of the service as a whole has been of a very high order, due greatly to the energy and organising ability of Miss Morrison, School Canteen Organiser.

The milk in schools scheme continues to operate as previously.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE—1950-51

(a) Total number of whole-time School Dental Officers employed under the Authority's School Health Service, showing separately unfilled vacancies at 31/7/51	1
(b) Total number of part-time Dentists employed on School Dental Work at 31/7/51	—
(c) Approximate equivalent as whole-time School Dental Officers of the part-time appointments referred to in (b) above, if any	—
(d) Total number as at 31/7/51:—	
1. Whole-time Dental Officers	1
2. Part-time Dental Officers	—
3. Unfilled Vacancies	—

Annual Report by School Dental Surgeon for 1950-51

Again this year all children have been twice inspected and had the offer of treatment. On twenty-six occasions 100 per cent. of those requiring treatment accepted same. At other schools the acceptance rate varied considerably.

During the first treatment 267 refused, and during the second 349 refused. Among the refusals are those cases in which the form is not returned.

The rate of fillings to extractions is steadily improving. This year 1122 fillings were completed in permanent teeth and 242 permanent teeth were extracted.

(Sgd.) C. C. FORSYTH, School Dental Surgeon.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT, 1950-51

Age	...	...	...	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Total
Inspected....	...	...	...	174	164	105	208	205	194	180	184	176	160	53	29	11	5	2	1850
With Caries	...	...	...	99	73	98	114	96	89	69	78	89	80	31	14	7	3	2	942
Requiring Treatment ...	...	...	...	93	68	89	101	84	85	69	77	89	80	30	14	7	3	2	791
Accepting Treatment ...	...	...	...	66	44	57	67	59	54	32	29	45	40	18	8	3	1	1	524
Treated	...	...	...	61	41	51	62	56	47	29	27	42	38	18	8	3	1	1	485
Fillings, Permanent	...	...	...	3	10	29	57	59	63	40	33	64	60	32	16	10	1	7	484
Fillings, Temporary	...	...	...	25	19	31	17	5	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Extractions, Permanent	...	...	...	2	...	2	27	12	16	10	20	8	13	6	...	...	...	...	116
Extractions, Temporary	...	...	...	171	67	42	46	52	17	10	18	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	429
General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	41	14	11	20	11	6	3	6	3	4	2	1	...	...	...	132
Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	3	3	23	27	8	6	5	...	3	86
Attendances	...	...	...	62	41	52	65	60	54	32	31	56	56	25	13	6	1	3	557
Extractions—Gen. Anæst.	...	...	...	165	53	34	57	46	23	12	30	7	12	4	...	...	...	...	443
Extractions—Local Anæsthetics	...	...	...	11	14	10	14	18	10	9	6	6	1	4	...	...	...	...	103

DENTAL RE-INSPECTION AND TREATMENT, 1950-51

Age	...	...	...	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Total
Inspected	...	...	...	148	170	198	193	203	177	205	191	171	152	81	33	18	9	1	1850
With Caries	...	...	...	77	81	97	101	84	84	98	100	78	73	38	12	12	8	1	944
Requiring Treatment	...	...	...	71	74	86	86	75	80	87	84	77	73	35	12	10	8	1	855
Accepting Treatment	...	...	...	48	56	51	59	55	45	53	40	36	29	17	7	8	2	...	506
Treated	...	...	...	46	45	51	52	49	42	48	40	36	29	16	7	8	2	...	470
Fillings, Permanent	...	...	...	1	8	38	73	55	57	57	64	60	50	47	19	16	3	...	638
Fillings, Temporary	...	...	...	35	36	37	12	2	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Extractions, Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	26	18	22	14	15	22	3	...	...	...	...	126
Extractions, Temporary	...	...	...	90	63	48	54	43	18	19	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	339
General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	29	21	13	16	16	10	7	5	2	5	2	...	...	...	...	126
Sundries	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	2	6	8	7	18	9	3	6	...	...	65
Attendances	...	...	...	50	46	48	52	51	45	56	43	46	40	17	13	10	2	...	522
Extractions—Gen. Anæ.	...	...	...	83	60	44	47	54	28	28	16	13	21	3	...	...	...	...	397
Extractions—Local Anæsthetics	...	...	...	7	3	8	9	15	8	13	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	68

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITARY SERVICES

Annual Report by E. W. Brannen, L.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.S., and
M.R.San.I., County Architect and Sanitary Inspector

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Twenty-Second Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supplies.—Progress is being made with the improvements and extensions of supplies at Helmsdale, Loth, Shinness, Bonar-Bridge, and new supply at Melness. When these have been completed, they will be a valuable contribution to the wellbeing of the residents of these areas.

During the year, the existing water supply at Tongue was purchased from the proprietor at a reasonable cost. This supply, however, is far from satisfactory—it consists of collecting water from several wells west of the village, and also one well at Braetongue. The quantity of water during summer is totally inadequate.

The Council have assumed liability for this supply, and, in my opinion, the scheme submitted by Babbie, Shaw and Morton, Consulting Engineers, should be commenced without delay. In the list of priorities for water schemes, Tongue is far down the list, but the change in circumstances described above calls for immediate action.

Lochinver.—This supply is at present just meeting the requirements. It is proposed to scrape the 3in. diameter main pipe from intake at Loch to the Glencanisp Road. I think this will prove a benefit.

Embo.—Distribution mains have been laid in this village, and a large number of householders have taken advantage and installed water into their houses. A number of Fire Hydrants fitted throughout the village will also be an advantage. These were located at various points with the approval of the Fire Master.

Durness.—Here again the Council have assumed responsibility in place of the land proprietor. There are two systems, one with hydraulic rams pumping water from Loch Caladail, and the other a gravitation supply from Loch Meadie. This pipe has a fall of 52.5 feet on a distance of 2700 yards, and was discharging 10,000 gallons per twenty-four hours. I introduced six standpipes to act as air valves, and this proved most successful, the flow increasing to 28,800 gallons per twenty-four hours.

Greenhill and Dalchalm.—A new 2in. diameter main was laid to replace the galvanised iron piping in this area, and an adequate supply is now available. The other existing supplies throughout the County continue to give satisfaction.

SCAVENGING

The bi-weekly collection of refuse at Golspie, Brora, Helmsdale, Bonar-Bridge, Lairg, and Embo is performed by private contractors.

I have again to report that the dumps are far from satisfactory. The tipping is still being carried out indiscriminately. Access to dumps by private persons should not be allowed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is none in the County.

SPECIAL DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Existing schemes at Golspie, Brora, Helmsdale, and Embo are working satisfactorily. At Lairg, Bonar-Bridge, Pittentrail, and Portgower proper drainage systems are long overdue.

SCHOOLS

These buildings are being well maintained, and the sanitary conditions continue to improve.

FACTORIES

The number of registered factories in the County and Burgh of Dornoch is now sixty-eight. Sixty visits were paid during the year, and the sanitary accommodation generally was found to be kept in good order. One factory was issued with a Certificate under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

BURIAL GROUNDS

These are administered by the District Councils. Extensions were made to Kildonan Burial Ground. Plans for extensions at Loth and Melness have been prepared for some considerable time.

FOOD SUPPLY

Milk.—The number of registered producers at the end of the year was twenty-three, with, in addition, three retailers. One registration was given up at the beginning of the year. The number of Tuberculin Tested licences issued by the Local Authority has increased from nine to fifteen. This means that 65 per cent. of the producers now hold designated licences under the Milk (Special Designation) (Scotland) Act.

Progress still continues with the work of elimination of tuberculosis from the cattle population of the County. The following figures make interesting reading:—

	Total Cattle at 31/12/51.	No. of Attested Herds.	No. of Cattle in Attested Herds.
Sutherland ..	9,851	525	3,530
Caithness ..	28,441	198	5,110
		Percentage of Attested to Total Cattle.	Percentage at 31/3/51.
Sutherland		35.9	12.4
Caithness		18.0	15.2

Sutherland's percentage of attested cattle is, however, below that for the whole of Scotland, which now stands at 49.7. This compares with 48 per cent. for Wales and 24.7 per cent. for England.

The work of milk sampling continues to receive a considerable amount of attention, and much supervision is required to ensure that the public are receiving the genuine article to which they are entitled.

The following table shows the number of samples taken under the various categories.

	Bacteriological		Chemical		Special	Biological	Total
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Samples	Samples	
Designated Milk ..	85	8	45	11	1	—	151
Non-Designated Milk	44	12	18	15	—	7	96
School Milks	54	13	47	3	—	—	117

All schools receiving liquid milk are supplied from Tuberculin Tested herds.

In the case of failures, a good deal of time was spent in tracing and eradicating the cause of the trouble. The majority of the producers are anxious to do their best, and are keen to get good results with their samples. Unfortunately, there are a very few who just "don't bother," and I feel if the powers that be were to institute a system of payment on the cleanliness of the product, then much more care and attention would be paid to the job.

Again although results of the biological samples proved negative, only one special sample was taken, and this was to ensure that treatment for mastitis had proved satisfactory before the milk was sold for human consumption.

ICE CREAM

There are only thirteen vendors licensed by the Local Authority, and these include one vehicle which is used for seasonal sales only. Of the remaining twelve, four now come within the category "exempted premises." All were visited several times throughout the year, and the premises were generally found to be kept clean and tidy. Several samples were taken for chemical analyses and one formal sample showed a deficiency in fat. This particular vendor received the usual warning before the formal sample was taken, but it was apparently ignored.

Legal proceedings were taken and the vendor was fined £5. I had hoped that this prosecution would serve as a warning to others, but it did not receive much publicity—in fact, it was not, to my knowledge, reported in the local press.

MEAT

The one slaughterhouse, which is situated within the Royal Burgh of Dornoch, continues to be kept in a very clean condition.

MEAT TRANSPORT

Once again at the end of another year, I have to report no apparent progress towards the improvement of the method of transport of meat from the slaughterhouse to the shops. As was pointed out in my previous report, it is very disheartening to those employed in the slaughterhouse to find that after taking every possible precaution to ensure that the meat and offals are handled as hygienically as possible, their good work is set at nought by the method in which it is handled and transported before it reaches the shops. Drastic action is called for.

All carcasses and offals are inspected for evidence of disease before leaving the slaughterhouse.

The following table gives the number of animals slaughtered and carcasses, etc., condemned at Dornoch Abattoir for the year 1951.

Class.	Slaughtered	No. of Animals		Weight (in lbs.) of Condemned	
		Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	Meat	Offals
Cattle	.. 550	16	6	7105	5865
Sheep	.. 2506	9	1	330	1851
Calves	.. 200	2	2	72	22
Pigs	.. 48	—	—	—	—

FOOD HYGIENE

Food premises continue to receive attention, and although time does not permit of routine inspection work, opportunity is taken to examine premises when making inspection under Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

After examination 88 certificates were issued in connection with foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption. All were voluntarily surrendered and condemned with the owners' consent. The undernoted summary shows the types and amounts of the foodstuffs condemned:—

Tins		Lb.	Oz.	Tins		Lb.	Oz.
40	Plums	95	12	1	Pineapple Jelly ..	1	8
3	Rhubarb	4	11	4	Grapes	7	0
4	Apricot Pulp ..	40	0	1	Blackberries ..	1	3½
4	Apple Slices ..	13	13½	15	Peas	13	5½
2	Prunes	2	8	31	Beans	26	4
1	Figs	0	15	3	Vegetables	9	12½
2	Gooseberries ..	2	10	3	Carrots	3	6
3	Orange Juice ..	3	12	73	Soup	66	12½
6	Apricot Nector ..	6	0	3	Evaporated Milk ..	3	0
4	Grape Juice ..	4	0	7	Condensed Milk ..	6	0
9	Greengages in Syrup,	8	7	8	Pilchards	4	4
6	Red Cherries in Syrup,	4	13	19	Cheese	3	13¾
1	Crushed Pineapple ..	1	4	5	Macaroni and Cheese,	4	0
38	Jars Pears	30	14	14	Salmon	8	14½
	Boiled Gammon	310	10	1	Jellied Veal	6	0
	Bacon	15	4	124	Luncheon Meat ..	146	8
4	Bags Flour	24	0	2	Steak	2	4
Hen	.. ..	4	0	1	Meat Paste	1	1
2	Cockerels	12	0	6	Jam	10	8
				55	Evaporated Milk ..	97	Pints

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928

Thirty-three samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst and all proved to be genuine. The following table gives particulars of the various articles sampled:—

Articles.	Number of Samples		Articles.	Number of Samples	
	Formal	Informal		Formal	Informal
Veal and Ham Paste	—	1	"Bev" Coffee Extract	—	1
Culinary Herbs-Sage	—	1	Meat Paste	—	1
Brisling in Oil ..	—	1	Tomato Spread ..	—	1
Ground Cinnamon ..	—	2	Gravy Salt	—	1
Custard Powder ..	—	1	Ground Ginger ..	—	1
Extract of Beef ..	—	1	Cornflour	—	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	—	2	Mayonaise	—	1
Pepper Compound ..	—	2	Sardines	—	2
White Pepper ..	—	1	Luncheon Meat ..	—	2
Filletts of Anchovies	—	1	Wintergreen Oint-		
Mixed Spice	—	2	ment	—	1
Cream of Tartar ..	—	1	Phensic Tablets ..	—	1
"Certo"	—	1	Soren Milk Whipping		
Gravy Browning ..	—	1	Compound	—	1
Whisky	1	—			

Investigation was made into an outbreak of suspected food poisoning in the Helmsdale area. No conclusive evidence was found to implicate any particular foodstuff.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In this connection every assistance was given to the Medical Officer of Health, and, on his instructions, a number of houses were disinfected.

HOUSING

This continues to be a major problem. The waiting lists for new houses are being reduced in size, but we must redouble our efforts if we are to achieve our objective.

Shortages of material have been less noticeable during the year, but some classes of skilled labour are definitely short—Slaters, Bricklayers, and Plasterers in particular.

The position of housing at 31st December, 1951, was as follows:—

No. of Houses Completed during the year:

Lairg	10 Traditional.
Bonar-Bridge	10 Traditional.

A number of private houses are being erected in the Parish of Eddrachilles, and this has resulted in slowing down Local Authority Housing, because of the limited labour force available.

(Sgd.) E. W. BRANNEN,
County Sanitary Inspector.

Dornoch, 13th June, 1952.



